

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 180815Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5598

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

S E C R E T MANILA 9869

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL TO DISSOLVE SEATO

REF: A. STATE 169400 B. MANILA 7094 C. MANILA 8971

1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR NUTTER INFORMED US JULY 18 THAT, ON BASIS PAT SHAW'S CONVERSATION WITH HABIB, HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO HOLD OFF ANY CONVERSATION WITH FILIPINOS ABOUT SEATO. HE SAID, INCIDENTALLY, TH HIS ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS STOPPED SHORT OF "PROPOSING" DISSOLUTION OF SEATO AND WERE MORE IN THE NATURE OF SOUNDING OUT GOP VIEWS ABOUT SUCH A STEP. HE SAID GOA WOULD NOT WISH "PULL THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER" SEATO ALLIES, ESPECIALLY THAI, IF LATTER WISH SEATO TO CONTINUE.

2. IN RESPONSE DEPT QUERY REFTTEL, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT GOP WOULD PROBABLY WELCOME ANY MOVE TO DISSOLVE SEATO, ALTHOUGH,AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, PHILIPPINE ATTITUDES WILL DEPEND UPON VIEWS OTHER ASEAN PARTNERS, ESPECIALLY THAILAND.

3. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL AMBASSADOR'S LAST CONVER-
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SATION WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS MAY 21 (REF B) JUST

BEFORE AMBASSADOR WENT ON HOME LAVE AND PRIOR TO MARCOS TRIP TO CHINA. MARCOS INDICATED SOME WILLINGNESS TO ABANDON SEATO IN LIGHT POSSIBLE NEGATIVE VIEWS FROM CPR.AMBASSADOR AT THAT TIME STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SEATO TO THAILAND.

4. MORE RECENTLY BRITISH AMBASSADOR TOLD CHARGE JUNE 30 (REF C) ROMULO HAD EXPRESSED VERY NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD SEATO. ALSO NOTE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF HMG TO SEATO AS EXPRESSED BY BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S REACTION TO ROMULO'S BLAST.

5. IN PHONE CONVERSATION WITHIN FEWS HOURS AFTER AMBASSADOR'S RETURN JULY 17, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR MENTIONED THAT SEATO WOULD BE HIGH ON THE AGENDA FOR TALKS WITH THE THAI PRIME MINISTER NEXT WEEK AND ASKED WHETHER THE AMBASSADOR HAD ANY VIEWS TO BE PASSED ON TO MARCOS. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED HE HAD NOTHING NEW TO ADD TO HIS EARLIER OBSERVATIONS.

6. COMMENT: WE ASSUME GOP IS IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTING WITH ASEAN ALLIES ON FUTURE OF SEATO AND THAT IT WOULD WELCOME ANY MOVE TOWARD DISSOLUTION OF SEATO IF THAIS CONCUR AND OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS HAVE NO SERIOUS OBJECTIONS. SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

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